

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 and 53-57 were pending in this application when the present Final Office Action was mailed (August 31, 2006), with claims 5, 8, 16, 17, 19, 24, and 28-43 withdrawn from consideration. In this response, claims 5-7, 9, 10, 22, 38, and 57 have been amended, claims 1-4, 8, 11-21, and 27-37 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 5-7, 9, 10, 22-26, 38-43, and 53-57 are currently pending.

In the August 31, 2006 Office Action, claims 53-57 are allowed and the rest of the claims were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1-3, 9-15, 18, 20, 21, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,020,476 to Bay et al. ("Bay");

(B) Claims 4, 6, 7, 22, 23, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bay in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,402,849 to Kwag et al. ("Kwag"); and

(C) Claims 53-57 are allowed.

A. Response to the Section 102(b) Rejection under Bay

Claims 1-3, 9-15, 18, 20, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bay. Without commenting on or conceding the merits of this rejection, claims 1-3, 11-15, 18, 20, 21, and 27 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or other application. As a result, the Section 102(b) rejection of these claims are now moot. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 53. Accordingly, the Section 102(b) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection under Bay and Kwag

Claims 4, 6, 7, 22, 23, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bay in view of Kwag. Without commenting on or conceding the merits of this rejection, claim 4 has been canceled. As a result, the Section 103(a) rejection of this claim is now moot. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 53, and claim 22

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has been amended to contain subject matter generally analogous to that of allowed claim 53. As a result, these claims are now patentable over the combined teachings of Bay and Kwag. Claims 23, 25, and 26 depend from claim 22. As a result, these claims are also patentable over the combined teachings of Bay and Kwag for the reasons discussed above and for the additional features of these claims.

C. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Allowed claims 53-56 have not been amended in this response. Allowed claim 57 has been amended to correct a clerical error.

D. Examination of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 5, 8, 16, 17, 19, 24, and 28-43 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a previous restriction requirement. In this response, claims 8, 16, 17, 19, and 28-37 have been canceled. Claim 38 has been amended to contain subject matter generally analogous to that of allowed claim 53. As a result, claim 38 is now allowable because claim 53 is generic to claim 38. Claims 39-43 depend from claim 38. As a result, these claims are also allowable for the reasons discussed above and the additional features of these claims.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims patentably define over the applied references. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance.

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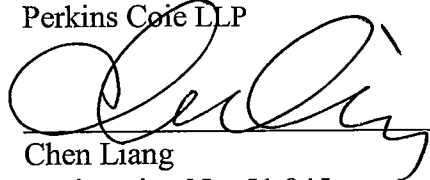
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If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6038.

Respectfully submitted,

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